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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

UNSC to adopt Iraqi peacekeeping resolution - Aksam  
Oil flow from Kirkuk to Turkey resumes - Hurriyet  
Survey finds Bush neurotic, dogmatic - Milliyet  
CHP against troops deployment in Iraq - Vatan  
Erdogan, Gul due on EU tour - Sabah  
AKP turns two - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

AKP government to discuss w/ U.S. number of Turkish  
peacekeepers - Zaman  
Armitage vows to stay in Iraq until WMD are found -  
Cumhuriyet  
Iraq expects 10 million tourists - Radikal  
Libya to pay reparation for Lockerbie victims - Yeni Safak  
Israel might hit Iran's nuclear power plant - Zaman  
Modern Don Quixote, Castro turns 77 - Radikal

BRIEFING

Turkish troops for Iraq peacekeeping: Turkey is expected to  
send 10,000 troops for Iraqi peacekeeping, becoming the  
third largest power in Iraq, dailies write. Major General  
Umit Sahinturk, the Turkish liaison officer in Tampa,  
Florida will be in command of Turkish troops in Iraq,  
reports say. Papers expect a delegation of lawmakers,  
military officers, and NGO members will visit Iraq for talks  
with local people. Ankara is also planning to invite  
prominent Iraqi politicians and communal leaders to exchange  
views about the dispatch, papers add. The parliament is  
expected to discuss a related motion for deployment in  
September.

Despite objection by the KDP and PUK, Turkish troops will be  
given transit passage through Northern Iraq to Baghdad,  
dailies say. Ankara will give the Northern Iraqi Kurdish  
leaders Barzani and Talabani the message that Turkish  
soldiers would carry out a humanitarian mission in Iraq,  
that they would mainly be engaged in health, education and  
infrastructure projects. Ankara has warned the Kurdish  
groups of strong retaliation in the face of any attack  
against Turkish troops during the passage, papers stress.

U.S. military visits to Turkey: Dailies expect some U.S.  
military delegation visits to Turkey to discuss the  
technical details of troops deployment before the National  
Security Council (NSC) meeting on August 22. Ankara will  
ask the U.S. for safe passage guarantees through Northern  
Iraq, and will also discuss with the Americans logistical  
support, the number and location of Turkish troops, and the  
expense of deployment, papers say.

AKP divided on troops deployment: Deputy Prime Minister  
Mehmet Ali Sahin said Turkey wanted a share in Iraq's  
rebuilding, and that a motion proposing deployment solely  
for security reasons would be rejected by AKP lawmakers,

according to papers. Some AKP deputies told the papers they would not vote for a motion envisaging a gendarme role for Turks in Iraq. Some AKP members are concerned that possible Turkish casualties during Iraqi peacekeeping might shake the AKP government. However, mainstream papers see a decrease in the number of AKP lawmakers objecting to the deployment.

Turkey to buy Russian helicopters: "Yeni Safak" reports the chairman of Russia's Kamov Co., Sergei Miheijev as announcing in a press conference in Moscow on Wednesday that an agreement was about to be tied with Turkey regarding sale of 145 KA-50-2 attack helicopters jointly produced by Russia and Israel. U.S. Bell-Textron Co. had won a contract offered by Turkey's Defense Industry Undersecretariat in 2000. The deal was cancelled when Americans objected to Ankara's demand that King Cobras should be produced in Turkey.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Fireman"

Soli Ozel commented in mass appeal Sabah (8/14): "The gist of the argument to justify Turkish military presence in Iraq stems from 'fire in Turkey's next door neighbor' rhetoric. It is indeed a fact that instability in Iraq is something Turkey cannot afford to live with. And not only Turkey but also the world cannot afford any failure of the US, either. It is not realistic to believe that the US would consider a withdrawal from Iraq at the current stage, yet due to growing expenses, the Bush administration will have to go to the UN eventually. . Turkey is in the process of either taking an immediate decision to send Turkish troops or wait until the UN mechanism works. In principle Turkey should send its troops for Iraq's stability yet it should be carried out within the framework of a peacekeeping force, like in Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan."

"The pragmatic approach"

Sami Kohen wrote in mass appeal Milliyet (8/14): "It seems the government is inclined to send Turkish troops to Iraq but it has certain conditions. The most important one is about Turkey's role. Turkey wants more than a security role in Iraq to cover the restructuring as well. In that respect, Turkish military image in Iraq will be way too different than American military. When Turkey manages to achieve this goal, those who speak against the decision will completely lose their arguments, such as helping for the occupation force and protecting imperialistic aims etc. It is for sure that Turkey's possible mission in Iraq will not be an easy task and contains risks. Let's not forget however Turkish military assumed many risks and conducted difficult tasks and achieved success, such as in Kosovo and Afghanistan. . Moreover, if Turkey sits and watches the developments in its next door neighbor, it would cause Turkey to alienate itself."

DEUTSCH